(c) whether there is any proposal to open the depot and if so, Government's reaction thereto and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the said land infrastructure will be given back for some other useful projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) set up a depot at Quilon, which was commissioned in 1994 as the first waterfed depot. This depot is located approximately 20 kms away from Quilon town, on land acquired through District Administration. Despite monetry compensation paid to land owners as per the Government rate fixed by the District Collector, the land owners kept on agitating, demanding employment in the Corporation. Due to the agitation by the land owners, due to uneconomic barge transportation for want of dredging and widening of the water channel and due to the blocking of the approach to the barge jetty by the dumping of rubbles, in the reclamation area, the barge loading could not be operated.

(b) It was not possible to continue operations at the depot due to repeated threats to the regular employees of the Corporation and hence depot operations were temporarily suspended for safety reasons.

(c) and (d) Resumption of operation from this depot by HPCL management and future utilisation of facilities has to be commercial consideration.

Pipeline gas connections in Agartala

2965. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gas pipeline connections to houses/hotels etc. all over the country, State-wise;

(b) the progress of work to provide house-to-house pipeline gas connection at Agartala; and

(c) the annual income generated from the supply of gas in Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Mahanagar

Gas Limited (MGL) and Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL), Joint Venture companies of GAIL (India) Limited, are supplying Piped Natural Gas (PNG) to 1.70 lakh and 9167 households/hotels in Mumbai and Delhi respectively. Gujarat Gas Company Limited (GGCL), in Gujarat, Assam Gas Company (AGCL) in Assam and Tripura Natural Gas Company Limited (TNGCL) in Tripura are also supplying PNG in some cities in those States in a limited manner.

(b) and (c) TNGCL, a joint venture company of AGCL and Tripura Industrial Development Corporation (TIDC), has taken up a city gas distribution project in Agartala for supplying PNG. An allocation of 0.1302 Million Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD) has been made for the project and GAIL has already laid pipeline upto city gate. TNGCL is supplying PNG to only around 3000 domestic/commercial consumers with limited revenue generation.

Impact of Natural Gas import on supply

2966. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to' state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had to cut natural gas supplies to several industrial units in the capital city;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government propose to import natural gas from Qatar;

(c) if so, whether the industrial units would get their original quota of natural gas; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) a Joint Venture Company promoted by GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGCL) is constructing an LGN terminal at Dahej in Gujarat for 5 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA) capacity.